

XI.—*Notices of recent Ornithological Publications.*1. *Andrews on the Skeleton of Phororhacos.*

[On the Extinct Birds of Patagonia.—I. The Skull and Skeleton of *Phororhacos inflatus* Ameghino. By C. W. Andrews, B.Sc., F.Z.S. Trans. Zool. Soc. xv. p. 55–86, pls. xiv.–xvii.]

Here we have at last an excellent description of the remains of the extinct Patagonian wonder, *Phororhacos inflatus*, with good illustrations of what is known of its osseous structure, taken from the original specimens of Señor Ameghino, now in the British Museum. As Mr. Andrews tells us, this bird “presents a most extraordinary combination of characters to which no close parallel can be found amongst recent forms.” A summary of opinions as to its relationships has already been given to us by the same author in this Journal (*Ibis*, 1896, p. 12).

2. *Annals of Scottish Natural History.*

[The Annals of Scottish Natural History. A Quarterly Magazine, with which is incorporated ‘The Scottish Naturalist.’ No. 31, July 1899, and No. 32, October 1899.]

We are glad to learn from our colleague, Mr. T. G. Laidlaw, that increasing interest appears to be felt in the movements and occurrences of birds in Scotland, to judge from the schedules returned; his valuable report for 1898 is to be found on pp. 140–158. Under the heading “Obstacles to the Protection of Birds’ Eggs in Scotland” are printed specimens from many letters addressed as recently as 1898 and 1899 to ornithologists and lighthouse-keepers, in which the writer—whose name is given—asks “in exchange” for “full separate clutches taken only in Great Britain, Ireland, or Faroe, with satisfactory data” of eggs, among which may be noted, “Eagles (both), Osprey, Kite, Honey-Buzzard, Harriers (all three), Dotterel, Greenshank, Ruff, Roseate Tern, Great Skua”; not to mention eggs of some species covered by the game-laws. *Inter alia* the writer says he “can spare many good clutches of Choughs (Irish).” We are sorry to learn that Ospreys have been destroyed in the

counties of Argyll and Aberdeen. Examples of the Golden Oriole, a very rare wanderer to Scotland, occurred in the Solway area at the end of April, and in Clackmannanshire on the 19th of May. In the October number, Col. John Campbell records the recent increase of the Stock-Dove and of four species of Ducks in the Tay area, and discusses the reasons assignable for the decrease of other birds. Lt.-Col. L. H. Irby follows with a short but very useful paper containing comparative lists of the birds found on Coll and Tiree, islands which are not far apart, but differ in natural conditions, and consequently in their avifaunas. Mr. Harvie-Brown reproduces Mr. Heatley Noble's account of the nesting of the Scaup-Duck in Sutherland, with some remarks; and a few interesting occurrences are recorded among the minor notices.

3. *Arrigoni degli Oddi on rare Italian Birds.*

[Elenco degli Uccelli rari o più difficili ad aversi conservati nella sua Collezione Ornitologica Italiana al 31 Dicembre, 1898. Pel Prof. Ettore Arrigoni degli Oddi. 'Ornis,' ix. p. 199.]

Professor Arrigoni describes some of the choice specimens of his collection of Italian birds at Ca' Oddo, near Monselice, formed since 1883, and containing at present some 4500 specimens. Among the 179 species enumerated are examples of *Nyctala tengmalmi*, *Muscicapa parva*, *Turdus fuscatus*, *Dromolea leucura*, *Motacilla lugubris*, *Melanocorypha sibirica*, *Emberiza cæsia*, and *Cygnus musicus*. There are 2 specimens of *Larus genei* [*L. gelastes*] from the Italian peninsula, and an example of *Colymbus glacialis* from the Lago di Garda. *Porphyrio caruleus* is stated to occur regularly in the marshes round the Lake of Lesina in Tuscany.

4. 'The Auk.'

[The Auk. A Quarterly Journal of Ornithology. Vol. xvi, Nos. 3 and 4, July and October, 1899.]

The coloured plate in the former of these numbers contains figures of the first plumages of *Dendroica coronata* and *Icteria virens* to illustrate a paper on sequence of plumages by

Dr. Jonathan Dwight, Jr. Mr. D. G. Elliot upholds *Cygnus* as the proper generic term for the White Swans, as against the claims of *Olor*; he next discusses some other species and genera; and goes on to arrange the Turkeys as *Meleagris fera*, Pennsylvania to Florida, west to Wisconsin and Texas; *M. fera osceola*, Florida; *M. intermedia*, Southern Texas and Eastern Mexico, below 2000 feet; and *M. gallopavo*, Western Texas to Arizona, and tablelands of Mexico. Dr. T. S. Roberts gives an interesting account of *Protonotaria citrea*, illustrated with fine photographs of the extraordinary places often selected by this Warbler for its nest. Mr. Ridgway concludes his list of new subspecies of Fringillidæ, and starts with the Corvidæ; while Mr. Oberholser gives his opinion that *Geothlypis trichas arizela* of the Pacific coast is subspecifically distinct from the Nevada bird. Of wider interest is Mr. Mackay's descriptive paper on the Terns and Laughing Gulls of Muskeget and Penikese Islands. Mr. Ruthven Deane records the shooting of the European Wigeon (*Mareca penelope*) in Indiana, making the ninth occurrence of this duck in the interior of the United States. No. 4 opens with an article by Mr. Witmer Stone, illustrated by coloured figures of the male of the Rose-breasted Grosbeak (*Zamelodia ludoviciana*) in immature and adult winter plumages. Mr. S. N. Roads follows with notes on some of the rarer birds of Western Pennsylvania; and Mr. F. J. Birtwell remarks upon aptosochromatism (colour-change without moult), as influenced by diet, in *Megascops asio*; while Mr. J. Bickerton Williams contributes an interesting article on the colour of certain birds in relation to inheritance. In a rare literary and scientific journal, the 'Registro Trimestre,' published in Mexico in 1832 and 1833, Mr. C. W. Richmond has found (in vol. ii.) descriptions of five species of Trochilidæ which had been overlooked, and these he copies *verbatim*, giving his identifications. Another valuable bit of research by Mr. Richmond is his article on the date of Lacépède's "Tableaux." Mr. Oberholser contributes a monograph of the genus *Contopus*; and Dr. J. A. Allen gives a very useful republication of descriptions of

new species and subspecies of North-American birds. The minor notices are chiefly of local interest.

5. *Bolau on the new Bird-house in the Hamburg Zoological Gardens.*

[Das neue Vogelhaus für deutsche Vögel im Zoologischen Garten zu Hamburg. Von Dr. Hermann Bolau. Zool. Garten, xl. p. 1.]

The new house for German birds in the Zoological Garden of Hamburg faces due south, and is built in the form of an elongated veranda, so as to be entirely open in front in summer, being closable by shutters in winter and in bad weather. It contains 84 small and 4 large cages, and is entirely devoted to native birds. Full particulars of it are described and plans added. In the list of the birds housed are enumerated 105 species, principally of Passeres, the remaining Orders of Birds being mostly provided for elsewhere.

6. *Buller on the Ornithology of New Zealand.*

[On the Ornithology of New Zealand. By Sir Walter L. Buller, K.C.M.G. Trans. N. Z. Inst. 1898.]

Sir Walter Buller's address to the Wellington Philosophical Society for 1898 contains many interesting notes on the Birds of New Zealand. We have first full details as to the capture of the fourth known example of the Takahé (*Notornis hochstetteri*)—"the most important ornithological event of the year." It is hoped that this specimen may be retained in the Otago Museum, where it has been placed "on deposit." A photographic picture of it accompanies the address. We have also various particulars respecting the Wood-hens (*Ocydromus*), another most important element of the New Zealand Ornis which is generally believed to be fast perishing. It is gratifying, however, to know that the bird is increasing in certain localities under measures taken for its protection, as are some other species, such as the Pied Fantail (*Rhipidura flabellifera*). Among the rarer species of which specimens have been recently procured Sir Walter mentions *Anthornis*

melanocephala (of Chatham Island) and *Clitonyx albicapilla*. The extraordinary Ground-Parrot or Kakapoo (*Stringops habroptilus*) is reported to be still "plentiful on the west coast of the Southern Island." The widely-extended Common Heron may now be included in the New Zealand avifauna, a specimen of it having been recently obtained on board a steamer off the east coast; and to this may be added *Puffinus tenuirostris*, Temm., which has been ascertained to breed on Stephens' Island.

7. *Bulletin of the Liverpool Museums*, Vol. ii. No. 1.

[1. The Expedition to Sokotra: Descriptions of the New Birds. By W. R. Ogilvie Grant and H. O. Forbes, LL.D.

2. Catalogue of the Coraciæ: Cuckoo-Rollers, Rollers, Motmots and Todies, Kingfishers and Bee-eaters, and of the Trogons (*Trogonidæ*) in the Derby Museum. By H. O. Forbes and H. C. Robinson.]

In this number of the 'Bulletin' we find a short history of the highly successful Socotran Expedition of 1898-1899, followed by descriptions of the birds discovered by it. These are characterized as *Scops socotranus*, *Fringillaria insularis*, *F. socotrana*, *Caprimulgus jonesi*, *Phalacrocorax nigrogularis*, *Passer hemileucus*, and *Motacilla forwoodi*. The last two are from the little island of Abd-el-Kuri, off Cape Guardafui. We are promised a volume with a complete account of the expedition and its results.

Messrs. Forbes and Robinson continue their useful catalogue of the Birds of the Liverpool Museum, and now treat of the Leptosomatidæ, Coraciidæ, Momotidæ, Todidæ, Alcedinidæ, Meropidæ, and Trogonidæ of that important collection. A new subspecies of Bee-eater is described as *Melittophagus gularis gabonensis* (from Gaboon), and a new Trogon as *Pyrotrogon neglectus* (from Malacca). We are quite in favour of altering names if incorrect, but cannot accede to the proposal to change the name of the African Trogon *Hapaloderma narina* to "*narinum*." The name was proposed by Le Vaillant in honour of a beautiful young Hottentot girl "Narina," who was certainly not of the neuter gender!

8. *Chapman on new Venezuelan Birds.*

[Descriptions of five apparently new Birds from Venezuela. By Frank M. Chapman. Bull. Am. Mus. N. H. xii, p. 153 (1899).]

From a collection made in Venezuela in the mountains near San Antonio, about 90 miles from Cumaná, by Mr. F. W. Urich, which contains examples of 37 species, the following are described as new:—*Setophaga verticalis pallidiventris*, *Chlorospingus (Hemispingus) canipileus*, *Mecocerculus nigriceps*, *M. urichi*, and *Synallaxis striatipectus*.

9. *Cordeaux on the Birds of the Humber District.*

[A List of British Birds belonging to the Humber District. (Having a special reference to their Migrations.) Revised to April 1899. By John Cordeaux. 8vo. London: R. H. Porter, 1899.]

A melancholy interest attaches to this little work, because, as we remarked in the obituarial notice of our late friend and brother-member of the B. O. U., it was finished only a short time before his lamented death. In this valuable supplement to the author's earlier and larger work on the same subject (published in 1872), the number of species is raised to 322, and a wonderful amount of recent information is conveyed in a small compass. This is owing, of course, in a great measure to the work of the Committee on Migration of which Cordeaux was a leading member. The list is a model. It is unfortunate that by a typographical error the line "Order Tubinares" should have slipped from its proper place, which is above—and not below—"Family Procellariidæ."

10. *Dahl on the Habits of the Birds of the Bismarck Islands.*

[Das Leben der Vögel auf den Bismarckinseln. Von Fr. Dahl. Mittel. Mus. f. Nat. in Berlin. Band I, Heft 2, 1899.]

Following Dr. Reichenow's account of the birds of the Bismarck Islands and in connection with it (see below, p. 211), we have an excellent essay on the lives and habits of the feathered inhabitants of these little-known lands by one who has evidently studied them to great advantage. Among a

mass of new information will be found records of the habits and nesting of *Nasiterna pusio*, *Ectectus pectoralis*, *Tanysiptera nigriceps*, *Macropteryx mystacea*, and many other strange species.

11. Finn on a new Indian Weaver-bird.

[Exhibition of Two Living Specimens of a new Indian Species of Weaver-bird. By F. Finn. Proc. Asiatic Soc. Bengal, 1899, p. 77.]

Ploceus rutledgei is based by Mr. Finn on living specimens obtained by Mr. W. Rutledge from Naini Tal, where the species is "probably not uncommon." It is closely allied to *P. baya*, but larger and entirely yellow beneath. It is strange, indeed, that such a novelty should have hitherto escaped notice.

12. Goeldi on the Nest of *Panyptila cayanensis*.

[A Lenda Amazonica del Cauré. Pelo Dr. Emilio A. Goeldi. Bol. Mus. Paraense, ii, p. 430 (1898).]

It seems that the long purse-like nest of the Cayenne Swift, *Panyptila cayanensis*, is in Lower Amazonia universally attributed to the little Falcon, there popularly called "Cauré," i. e. *Falco rufifularis*, and that various legends and superstitions are connected with these nests, which are much valued at Pará. Dr. Goeldi has now demonstrated what species is the real maker of those beautiful structures, and the baselessness of the vulgar errors referring to them. The nest of *Panyptila cayanensis* is in fact a diminutive form of that of *P. sancti-hieronymi*, first discovered by Salvin in Guatemala (not in Guiana, as Dr. Goeldi seems to suppose). The Guianan species of *Panyptila* is the same as the Amazonian, namely, *P. cayanensis*. See Ibis, 1897, p. 262.

13. Hartert on the Birds of St. Aignan.

[On the Birds collected by Mr. Meek on St. Aignan Island in the Louisiade Archipelago. By E. Hartert. Nov. Zool. vi, p. 206 (1899).]

Mr. Hartert has already catalogued the birds collected by Mr. Meek on Sudest and Rossel Islands of the Louisiade group (cf. Ibis, 1899, pp. 321, 650). He now gives us an

account of those of St. Aignan or Misuna obtained by the same adventurous collector. They are referred to 64 species and subspecies, of which *Gerygone rosseliana onerosa*, *Zosterops aignani*, and *Macropygia doreya cunctata* are described as new. A table is added showing all the known species of the three principal Louisiade islands—St. Aignan (65), Sudest (16), and Rossel (37 species). The known species and subspecies restricted to the Louisiades are now 32 in number.

14. Hartert on Species of *Cyclopsitta* and *Ptilinopus*.

[On some Species of the Genera *Cyclopsitta* and *Ptilinopus*. By Ernst Hartert. Nov. Zool. vi. p. 219 (1899).]

The heads of both sexes of four allied species of Parrots of the genus *Cyclopsitta*, *C. nucleayana*, *C. virago*, *C. aruensis*, and *C. inseparabilis*, are figured on plate iv. These are accompanied by illustrations of the heads of two Fruit-Pigeons, *Ptilinopus granulifrons* from Obi Mayor, Moluccas, and *P. hyogaster* from Halmahera and Batchian.

15. Hartert and Rothschild on 'The Ornithology of the Galápagos.'

[A Review of the Ornithology of the Galapagos Islands, with Notes on the Webster-Harris Expedition. By the Hon. Walter Rothschild, Ph.D., and Ernst Hartert. Nov. Zool. vi. p. 85 (1899).]

This important paper gives us a complete account of the ornithological results of the expedition sent out to the Galapagos in 1897 by Mr. Webster (of the U.S.A.) and Mr. Rothschild for the exploration of the natural history of these wonderful islands. The first attempt having miscarried, through the death of three of the party from yellow fever caught at Colon, Mr. Harris, the leader of the expedition, was unable to leave San Francisco until June 1897, when he started, with two collectors, in a two-masted schooner, and, after a short stay at Clarion Island, reached the Galapagos on July 26th. The party visited successively Culpepper, Wenman, Abingdon, Bindloe, Jervis, James, Barrington, Chatham, Hood, Charles, Albemarle, Narborough, and Tower Islands, and regained San Francisco

on Feb. 8th, 1898, with a collection of 3075 birds—not to speak of tortoises and other specimens. After a short general introduction, the diaries and field-notes of Mr. Harris and Mr. F. P. Drown are printed at full length. They are well worthy of perusal.

In the general remarks on the fauna of the Galapagos, which follow, the authors show more clearly than ever that the bird-life is entirely of American origin, without any sort of admixture. As regards the somewhat far-fetched theories of Dr. Baur, they prefer to leave the questions as to the supposed former connection of the islands with each other and with the continent as “uncertain”: we may say decidedly “not proven.”

In the review of the 108 species of birds now known to compose the avifauna of the Galapagos, which concludes the memoir, the authors have had the use of the Baur Collection of 1100 skins, as well as of that made by Mr. Harris. They acknowledge the assistance received from Mr. Ridgway's excellent essay on the ‘Birds of the Galapagos Archipelago,’ but do not agree to all his conclusions. Most of the new species and subspecies based on Mr. Harris's collection have been already characterized in the ‘Bulletin of the B. O. C.,’ but the following are now added:—*Certhidea olivacea ridgwayi*, *Geospiza scandens septentrionalis*, *Nesopelia galapagoensis exsul*, and *Circus sharpei*. The most notable discoveries made by Mr. Harris seem to be the Short-winged Cormorant, *Phalacrocorax harrisi*, and the abundance of *Xema furcata* in the Galapagos, whence it has been known to wander to the coast of Peru; it has also been obtained on the volcanic island of Malpelo, in about lat. 4° N. [*cf.* Ibis, 1896, p. 286].

16. Helms on some Birds from Greenland.

[Ornithologiske Meddelelser fra Grönland. Af O. Helms. Vid. Meddel. fra d. naturh. Foren. i Kbhvn. 1899, p. 231.]

Herr Helms, who has already contributed much to our knowledge of the birds of Greenland (*v.* Vid. Meddel. 1892,

1894, 1898), writes on two small collections recently received from that country. In the first of these, from Angmagsalik, in East Greenland, there are no new species represented; in the second, from West Greenland, the first occurrences in Greenland of the White-billed Northern Diver, *Colymbus adausi*, and of the Bobolink of North America, *Dolichonyx oryzivorus*, are recorded.

17. *Herman on the Migration Question.*

[Vom Zuge der Vögel auf positiver Grundlage. Von Otto Herman. 'Aquila,' 1899, p. 1.]

Those who are interested in the question of the migration of birds should not fail to consult Herr Herman's essay, which contains a good *résumé* of the present state of our knowledge of this very difficult and mysterious subject. Although much light has been thrown upon it by the numerous writers of whose labours the author gives us the results, we cannot say that either the causes of migration or the manner in which it is effected have been yet satisfactorily explained.

18. '*Irish Naturalist.*'

[The Irish Naturalist, a Monthly Journal of general Irish Natural History. Edited by G. H. Carpenter and R. Lloyd Praeger. Vol. viii. Nos 5-12. Dublin: Eason & Sons, Ltd., 1899.]

The ornithological portion of this useful magazine continues to be well kept up. The notes on the Razorbill, made by Mr. Carron, one of the Irish lighthouse-keepers, and communicated by Mr. R. M. Barrington, are well deserving of attention; and Mr. Edward Williams's account of the occurrence of the Sociable Plover (*Vanellus gregarius*) near Navan, co. Meath, is of remarkable interest. A photograph of this rare visitor, with full details, is given in the November part, and it is rather remarkable that, although this bird's most western breeding-limit is in the Crimea, yet the first British example occurred in Lancashire, and the present specimen has been obtained in Ireland. Dr. C. J. Patten, after writing at some length about the nesting of the Little Tern, has given

a more concise account of the birds observed on the coast of co. Dublin. Among the shorter, but by no means less important notices, Mr. R. Warren supplies some interesting information respecting the spring-migration of *Motacilla alba* along Killala Bay, in the west; and Mr. R. J. Ussher describes a large colony of Cormorants (*Phalacrocorax carbo*) breeding on trees on an island in a lonely lake in the Mayo mountains, upwards of eighty nests having been counted. Among the especial rarities for Ireland, occurrences of the Rose-coloured Pastor, Golden Oriole, Night-Heron, Wood-Sandpiper, and Montagu's Harrier may be mentioned, and these records indicate an increased interest in the avifauna of the island.

19. Jackson's 'Thousand Days in the Arctic.'

[A Thousand Days in the Arctic. By Frederick G. Jackson. Two vols. London and New York: Harper Brothers, 1899.]

The two volumes of Mr. Jackson's journals, as given in the history of his thousand days in Franz-Josef Land, contain numerous references to birds, especially to those which appear to have furnished a considerable portion of the subsistence of the hardy explorers during their stay. Mr. W. Eagle Clarke's memoir in this Journal ('Ibis,' 1898, p. 249) has already placed the main results of the Harmsworth-Jackson Expedition as regards ornithology before the world; but some additional information will be found in the Appendix to the present work, contained in Mr. Jackson's own field-notes on the birds met with during the stay in Franz Josef Land, and in an article on the eggs collected, prepared by Mr. F. W. Frohawk.

20. Kempen on some Birds of Hybrid Origin or Abnormal Plumage.

[Notes sur quelques Oiseaux Hybrides ou à Plumage Anormal. Par Ch. van Kempen. 'Ornis,' ix, p. 251.]

Mr. Ch. v. Kempen describes some recently-acquired specimens of hybrids and abnormal plumages from his own collection—such as *Anas boschas* ♂ × *Mergus merganser* ♀;

Tetrao urogallus, ♀, in partly male plumage; and a curious variety of *Fringilla caelebs*.

21. Kirby's '*Sport in East Central Africa*.'

[Sport in East Central Africa, being an Account of Hunting-trips in the Portuguese and other Districts of East Central Africa. By F. Vaughan Kirby. London: Rowland Ward, Ltd., 1899.]

Although Mr. Kirby's volume, as will be evident from its title, relates chiefly to his sporting adventures when in pursuit of the larger mammals, frequent allusions to birds will be found in it (see, for example, pp. 103, 132, 142, 190, and 230). His companion, Mr. James J. Harrison, seems to have collected bird-skins, but we are not aware that these have ever been examined by a competent ornithologist. Mr. Kirby's travels were mostly in the Portuguese provinces north and south of the Lower Zambesi. It is much to be regretted that no map is given in the volume to show his exact routes.

22. Lee's *Photographs of British Birds*.

[Among British Birds in their Nesting-Haunts, illustrated by the Camera. By Oswin A. J. Lee. Parts XIV. & XV. 4to. Edinburgh: D. Douglas, 1899.]

In Part XIV. the breeding-places of the following species are figured:—*Turtur communis*, *Strix flammea*, *Acrocephalus streperus*, *Passer montanus*, *Ædicnemus scolopax*, *Perdix cinerea* (two plates), *Fuligula cristata*, *Garrulus glandarius*, and *Alcedo ispida*. Part XV. contains:—*Pratincola rubetra*, *Pandion haliaëtus* (two plates), *Procellaria pelagica*, *Emberiza citrinella* (two plates), *Columba livia*, *Puffinus anglorum*, *Motacilla melanope*, and *Lagopus scoticus*. All are beautiful, but we may select for special praise the plate of the Grey Partridge on her nest, and the next one, with the eggs exposed; the Whinchat; and the two of Osprey's nests in Strathspey. It is sad to learn that since 1896 not only have the eggs of the last been taken, but that one of the breeding-birds has been shot. Mr. Lee speaks of the difficulty experienced in getting a Turtle-Dove to "sit" to

him; and we wonder if he has ever tried Mr. R. Kearton's portable artificial tree-trunk, of which he will find two illustrations (open and closed) in 'Wild Life at Home,' pp. 12-13. Mr. Lee's remark that each individual Barn-Owl seems to have its favourite food, as the pellets under one nest will contain only the remains of mice, and those under another tree all rats or small birds, is a much-needed warning against generalizing from scanty data. The letterpress is as good as usual, but some of the vignettes are rather deficient in interest.

23. Madarász on Birds from New Guinea.

[Ornithologische Sammel-Ergebnisse Ludwig Biró's in Neu-Guinea. Bearbeitet von Dr. Julius v. Madarász. Termés. Füzetek. 1899, p. 375.]

Since the first list of Biró's collection in German New Guinea was published (*cf.* 'Ibis,' 1898, p. 166), further consignments have been received at Buda-Pesth, together with a series of field-notes made by the collector. Dr. v. Madarász now gives a complete list of Biró's birds, accompanied by these useful notes. They are prefaced by an interesting letter from Biró, in which an account is given of his principal collecting-quarters, near the native village of Erima, about four kilometres N.W. of Stephansort, and of the natives of that district and their various languages.

The list enumerates 103 species, among which is a rare Kingfisher, *Halcyon elisabeth* Heine, stated to be omitted in the B.M. Catalogue. This species is figured, as are also *Rhipidura leucothorax* Salvad., and *Astur novæ-guineæ*—a new discovery of Biró's, which has been previously described by Madarász (Orn. Mon. 1899, p. 27). Some breast-bones are figured in the text, also the curious chick of *Centropus menebeki*.

24. Madarász on Additions to the Hungarian Ornis.

[Further Contribution to the Hungarian Ornis. By Dr. Julius von Madarász. Termés. Füzetek. 1899, p. 344.]

We may consider, Dr. v. Madarász tells us, Joh. v. Frivaldsky's 'Aves Hungariæ,' published on the occasion of

the Ornithological Congress at Buda-Pesth, to be the most trustworthy on the Hungarian Ornis. The object of the present paper is to enumerate some species omitted in that list and to give notes on them. These species—or forms—are 29 in number; among them are *Lycus* (scr. *Corvus*) *collaris* Drummond, *Galerita senegalensis*, *Ægithalus castaneus* Sev., and *Chen hyperboreus* (Pall.).

25. Nelson on new Birds from North-western Mexico.

[Descriptions of new Birds from North-western Mexico. By E. W. Nelson. Proc. Biol. Soc. Washington, xiii. p. 25 (1899.)

The collection from which the specimens here described were obtained was formed by Mr. E. A. Goldman in Western Mexico for the Biological Survey of the U.S. Department of Agriculture. The species and subspecies now characterized as new are named *Amazona albifrons saltuensis*, *Antrostomus goldmani*, *Aphelocoma grisea*, *Pipilo fuscus intermedius*, *Cardinalis cardinalis affinis*, *C. c. sinaloensis*, *Arremonops superciliosa sinaloæ*, *Basileuterus rufifrons caudatus*, *Thryothorus felix pallidus*, *Heleodytes stridulus*, *Myiadestes obscurus cinereus*, and *Catharus olivascens*.

26. Reichenow on the Birds of the Bismarck Islands.

[Die Vögel der Bismarckinseln. Von Ant. Reichenow. Mitteil. Mus. f. Nat. Berlin. Band I. Heft 3, 1899.]

The "Bismarck Islands," it may be necessary to explain to some of our readers, is the name assigned by their present possessors to the group of islands east of New Guinea, formerly called New Britain, New Ireland, and Duke of York Island, but of which the names have been very unnecessarily, in our opinion, changed to "Neu-Pommern," "Neu-Mecklenburg," and "Neu-Lauenburg," together with the adjacent groups of New Hanover and the Admiralty Islands.

After an historical account of our knowledge of the bird-life of these islands (which commenced with the visit of the French naturalists Lesson and Garnot, in the corvette

'La Coquille,' to Port Praslin, in New Ireland, in 1823), and an alphabetical list of the authorities on the subject, Prof. Reichenow gives us a short essay on the general aspects of the avifauna of the Bismarck Islands. These belong essentially to the Papuan Division of the Australian Region, but present several well-marked points of difference. The complete list of the birds which follows shows that we are now acquainted with 178 species from these islands, referable to 38 different families. Of these 178 species, no fewer than 74 are peculiar to the group, though most nearly related to Papuan forms. Under each species, besides the principal references and exact localities, short descriptions are given, with remarks. On a coloured plate are figured *Myiagra novæ-pomeraniæ*, *Rhipidura dahli*, and the nest of *Rhipidura setosa*. The whole paper forms a very useful manual, and will, we trust, lead to the further exploration of this most interesting avifauna, concerning which comparatively little is yet known.

27. *Rey on the Eggs of Middle-European Birds.*

[Die Eier der Vögel Mitteleuropas. Von Dr. Eugène Rey. Lief 1, 2. Svo. Gera-Untermhaus, 1900.]

We have received the first two numbers of a new popular work on the eggs of the birds of Europe, by Dr. Eugène Rey. It will be completed in 25 parts, with five plates printed in colours in each part. The figures of the eggs seem to be well drawn and nicely coloured, and we have no doubt that the new undertaking will be much appreciated in Germany, where, so far as we know, there has been no publication on birds'-eggs issued since that of Bädcker in 1863.

28. *Rothschild on Birds from New Guinea and the Sula Islands.*

[On some Rare Birds from New Guinea and the Sula Islands. By the Hon. W. Rothschild. Nov. Zool. vi. p. 218 (1899).]

Mr. Rothschild now figures (pl. ii.) the curious Parrot, previously described by him under the name *Charmosyna*

atrata. A second specimen, lately received from British New Guinea, is supposed to be a female of the same species. On the same plate is figured the singular Finch *Oreostruthus fuliginosus* of De Vis, of which the Tring Museum has lately received a good series from Mount Knutsford, British New Guinea. From the same locality have been received five additional specimens of the remarkable Passerine bird *Ifrita coronata* Rothsch., now figured on plate iii., which also contains an illustration of the new *Pitta dohertyi*, discovered by Doherty on Sula Mangoli.

29. *Schalow on Birds from Spitsbergen.*

[Einige Bemerkungen zur Vogelfauna von Spitzbergen. Von Herman Schalow. J. f. O. 1899, p. 375.]

After some preliminary remarks on recent accretions to our knowledge of the North-Polar Avifauna, Herr Schalow gives an account of the birds collected by Dr. Römer and Dr. Schaudinn in the course of the voyage of the ss. 'Helgoland' in the Spitsbergen seas in 1898, on which a report has been lately published by Capt. Rüdiger in the 'Verhandlungen' of the 'Gesellschaft für Erdkunde' of Berlin (xxv. p. 430, 1898). Examples of 12 species were obtained, upon which various notes are given. Among these were three adult specimens in breeding-dress of *Xema sabinii*, being the first recorded as obtained on the Nordostland of Spitsbergen. *Gavia alba* (i. e. *Pagophila eburnea*) was found breeding in hundreds on Abel Island, King-Karl's Land. Examples of a breeding Bernicle Goose, with four young in down, were procured in Wide Bay, North-west Spitsbergen, and a Whimbrel was shot on Bear Island on June 4th.

30. *Sharpe's Hand-list of the Genera and Species of Birds.*

[A Hand-list of the Genera and Species of Birds. [Nomenclator Avium tum Fossilium tum Viventium.] By R. Bowdler Sharpe, LL.D. Vol. I. 8vo. London, Printed by order of the Trustees of the British Museum, 1899.]

The first volume of Dr. Sharpe's new 'Hand-list of Birds' (see Bull. B. O. C. viii. p. xxiv) was issued in

November last. It makes an excellent index to the 'Catalogue of Birds,' containing in every case a reference to the volume wherein each species is described and its synonymy, to which is added a concise indication of the *patria*. Besides this, all additional species characterized during the publication of the Catalogue are inserted in their proper places; while the extinct forms (which were not mentioned in the former Hand-list of 1869-71) are interpolated in their correct positions, so far as these can be ascertained. The latter are mostly taken from Mr. Lydekker's 'Catalogue of Fossil Birds' of 1891.

In the present List Dr. Sharpe follows (nearly) the classification which he put forward at the Ornithological Congress of 1891, and begins at the bottom of the Class. This, we are well aware, is the modern fashion, but it is not at all convenient, as until recent years all systematic writers on ornithology have taken the opposite course. The volume commences, therefore, with the Ratitæ, and contains all the lower Orders of Birds up to what we call the Psittaci, Picariæ, and Passeres. These, we presume, will be treated of in the second and third volumes, to the issue of which we look forward with great interest, as the 'New Hand-list,' when complete, will be of surpassing value to all ornithologists.

So far as we can make out, only four new generic terms are proposed in the present volume—*Mezotreron* for *Ptilopus dohertyi* Rothsch., *Pseuduria* for *Uria columba* (Pall.), *Nannopterum* for *Phalacrocorax harrisi* Rothsch., and *Psiloscoops* (ex MS. Coues) for *Scops flammeola* Kaup.

The subjoined table (p. 215) gives the number of species and genera recognized in the 33 Orders of Birds that are treated of in the present volume. We have ventured to simplify the name of the 24th Order of Carinatae by omitting one syllable, because the correct genitive of "*Cathartes*" in Latin would not, we believe, be '*Cathartidis*.'

Order.	No. of Genera.	No. of Species.
I. SAURURÆ.		
I. Archaeopteryges	1	2
II. RATITÆ.		
I. Rheiformes	3	6
II. Struthioniformes	1	10
III. Casuariiformes	5	25
IV. Dinornithiformes	6	30
V. Æpyornithiformes	2	13
VI. Apterygiformes	3	8
III. CARINATÆ.		
I. Tinamiformes	9	70
II. Galliformes	100	512
III. Hemipodii	2	27
IV. Pteroclidiformes	3	21
V. Columbiformes	93	557
VI. Opisthocomiformes	1	1
VII. Ralliformes	66	252
VIII. Podicipedidiformes	7	25
IX. Colymbiformes	2	7
X. Hesperornithiformes	5	7
XI. Sphenisciformes	10	24
XII. Procellariiformes	27	127
XIII. Alciiformes	15	33
XIV. Lariformes	24	132
XV. Charadriiformes	119	314
XVI. Gruiformes	18	52
XVII. Stereornithes	10	19
XVIII. Ardeiformes	81	185
XIX. Phœnicopteriformes	7	23
XX. Anseriformes	77	256
XXI. Gastornithiformes	5	7
XXII. Ichthyornithiformes	5	13
XXIII. Pelecaniformes	13	105
XXIV. Cathartiformes	6	10
XXV. Accipitriformes	93	526
XXVI. Strigiformes	32	328
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	851	<hr/> 3,727

31. *Winge on the Birds of the Danish Lighthouses*, 1898.

[Fuglene ved de danske Fyr i 1898. 16de Aarsberetning om danske Fugle. Ved Herluf Winge. Vid. Meddel. fra d. naturh. Foren. i. Kbhvn. 1899, p. 337.]

The excellent and methodical Annual Report on the birds taken and observed at the Danish lighthouses, accompanied by the usual well-drawn map, is again before us (*cf.* Ibis, 1899, p. 152). The Report for 1898 informs us that 940 specimens were received in that year from 33 lighthouses, besides notices of others, bringing up the total to 1300 occurrences. These are referable to 60 species, of which three are new to the list, namely, *Totanus ochropus*, *Corvus frugilegus*, and *Loxia curvirostra*. The three species that occurred most numerously in 1898 were *Alauda arvensis*, *Sturnus vulgaris*, and *Turdus merula*, not usually considered as migrants in Denmark.

32. *Witchell on Birds' Notes*.

[Cries and Call-Notes of Wild Birds: a popular Description of the Notes employed by our commoner British Birds in their Songs and Calls. With Musical Illustrations. By C. A. Witchell. 8vo. London: Upcott Gill, 1899.]

In 'The Ibis,' 1896, p. 582, we gave a favourable notice of this author's 'Evolution of Bird-Song'; and in pursuit of the fascinating subject of bird-language Mr. Witchell has now produced a little book in the popular style supposed to be suited to the tastes of the end of this century. Town-birds, Woodland-birds, Upland-birds, and Water-birds form the main divisions of the work, and there is plenty of good matter in the author's remarks. There will, however, be always the difficulty that few persons can go far in agreement as to the rendering of birds' notes; in fact, their unanimity on this subject is rare, while their divergence of opinion is often extreme.

33. *Messrs. Woodward on the Birds of Natal*.

[Natal Birds (including the Species belonging to Natal and the Eastern Districts of the Cape Colony). By R. B. and J. D. S. Woodward. Pietermaritzburg, 1899. 216 pp.]